# DEFENSE BULLETIN

IWW

the I.W.W. General Defense



WE NEVER FORGET

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# **IWW IU 440**

Inside, workers continue job organizing. Outside, info pickets. See pages 2 & 3 for IWW strike news....

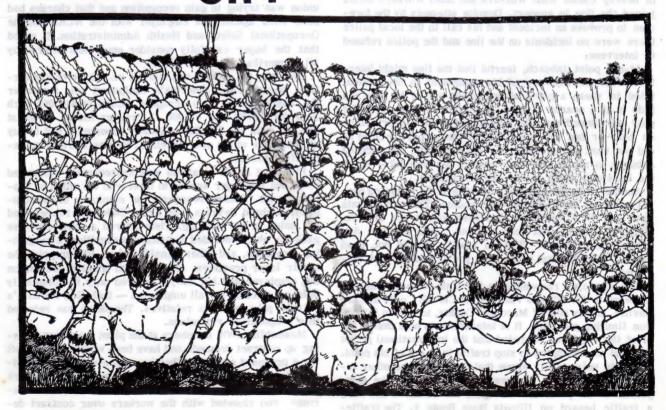
player for recognition of Metal and Machiners Workers



IU 440 informational pickets in front of Mid-America

Machine in Virden, Illinois. (VIRDEN REPORTER photò)

#### OR?



Labor Relations Board issued three dire to Mid-America Machinery of Virden, Illinois. Including the Board's order are the following: (1) that the company post notice in the shop admitting violations of the Federal labor law and a pledge to refrain from doing so in the future; (2) that the employer recognize Metal and Machinery Workers Industrial Union 440 of the IWW and begin bargaining with the union; and (3) that the employer reinstate James D'Aunoy, who had been fired for complaining about health and safety issues, with full back pay. Mid-America can still appeal this decision, but our members are determined to press the company for early talks.

It was a month of confrontation on the picket lines and in the courts for the workers at Mid-America Machinery in downstate Virden, Illinois as they pressed their employer for recognition of Metal and Machinery Workers IU 440.

Informational picketing outside the shop, which rebuilds earth movers, graders, and other types of heavy construction equipment, began Saturday, August 20th after Laurance Jabusch, the employer, refused once again to recognize the union. IU 440 has demonstrated that it has a majority of workers in the production shop excluding the foreman and a grandfather of the owner. That Saturday was an overtime day for the workers, who were preparing pieces of equipment to be shipped to a Chicago-area auction sale.

While IU 440 members protected their jobs by staying on them, the picket was erected outside to inform potential customers and the general public of labor conditions at the plant. For the week it was maintained, the line was staffed by the wives of IU 440 members, former employees of Mid-America who know what conditions are like, and by a number of volunteers from the Chicago General Membership Branch. Veteran members Frank Cedervall of Ohio and Mike Kaciban also reinforced the picketers, and Cedervall joined the General Production Workers Organizing Committee handling the drive.

The pickets were very effective. Although the line was for information only and at no time attempted to stop either deliveries or pickups, several truck drivers refused to cross the line. Local residents stopped to ask what the picket was about and were generally supportive. Members of nearby United Auto Workers and Steel Workers locals joined the line in support. Despite attempts by the foreman to provoke an incident and his call to the local police there were no incidents on the line and the police refused to intervene.

At one point Jabusch, fearful that the line might interfere with the delivery of his equipment to the auction, tried to sneak a piece of equipment out of the shop and hide it at a nearby airport. Alert pickets discovered the ploy and immediately set up a picket at the airport. After an hour or two the proprietor of the airport decided he did not want any picketing or labor trouble, and ordered Jabusch to return the equipment to his own lot — which the boss did, much to his embarrassment.

Another time the picketers overheard the following conversation on their citizen-band radios. The participants were not IWW members, but were area truck drivers. "They're moving that scab shit out," said a voice. Another voice replied: "I'm no scab." "Maybe not, good buddy," said the first voice, "but you're hauling scab machines."

The employer responded in the time-honored manner. He went to the Illinois 7th Judicial Circuit Court in Carlinville, county seat of Macoupin County, to file an injunction limiting picketing. It is interesting to note that in his brief the employer conceded that the informational picket line had not attempted to stop traffic in or out of his plant. He could only weakly argue that the trucks and other vehicles that stopped, however briefly, to hear the complaints of the picketers disrupted his business and were a traffic hazard on Illinois State Route 4. The trafficinterruption charge is ridiculous, since trucks pulled onto

EMERGENCY APPEAL: \$5,000 is needed to make this shop IWW: \$3000 to force the boss in court to recognize the union & rehire the fired; \$2,000 for strike relief, mobile pickets, phone, etc.. We need some lump sum donations: dig it out... And we need some of you hard-core to pledge \$5 or \$10 a month for 6 months to Virden IU 440

Do it now: send c/o IWW 752 W. Webster Chicago

the wide graveled shoulder and in no way impeded traffic. Jabusch asked that the union be enjoined from blocking the entrance of the plant location, picketing any other third-party establishment, and threatening persons doing business with the firm. He also asked for lawyer fees and court costs.

On August 23rd the union agreed to a temporary restraining order until a full hearing could be held. The temporary order limited picketing at the plant to two people, but did not restrain picketing of third parties. The injunction hearing has been scheduled for September 15th. At that time the union plans to request a continuance under the terms of the current order.

Meanwhile, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) formally entered a complaint against Mid-America Machinery. The investigating officer found a staggering number of suspected violations. The complaint includes 45 separate violations of Section 8a(1) of the National Labor Relations Act, discriminatory firing, discriminatory layoff, and failure to recognize a majority union. The regional director found evidence of violations so strong that he recommended a directed bargaining order, a relative rarity. A hearing on these charges will be held in Carlinville on October 17th.

But the real action was not taking place in courtrooms or government offices, but on the picket lines. Members of the General Production Workers Organizing Committee and the Chicago Branch greeted the arrival of four pieces of heavy equipment at an auction in a Chicago suburb with pickets and leaflets. Also joining the line were members of other unions that the Chicago Branch has helped out, including the Service Employees and Cook County Nurses Association. The leaflet distributed explained that the union was trying to gain recognition and that charges had been filed against the employer with the NLRB and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. It asked that the buyer carefully consider equipment offered by Mid-America before purchase.

Evidently the pickets and leaflets must have been effective, because Mid-America's equipment sold far under the asking price. Two scrapers valued at \$10,000 each sold for \$3700 and \$4,000. A crawler leader valued at \$33,000 sold for \$28,000. Jabusch reportedly had to buy at least one of his own machines. He was learning an expensive lesson.

Picketing at all locations was subsequently suspended when the employer agreed to meet with the union on September 7th. Robert Swaggerty, an employee of the company, Richard deVries, and Frank Cedervall represented the union at the meeting. They offered a comprehensive package which included voluntary recognition, a bargaining timetable, and other considerations for dropping the unfair labor practices. After several hours of discussion the employer and his lawyer offered only to voluntarily hold an election for all employees — including the boss's private pilot and his relatives. The union has rejected this proposal as ridiculous.

Meanwhile, IWW members at the plant have been drawing up contract demands and have been working on a draft for a proposed contract. They have received technical advice from members of the General Production Workers Organizing Committee and from Ottilie Markholt of Tacome who closeted with the workers over contract demands during and after the recent convention.

One of the great pioneering US workers' movements met at the weekend to celebrate Labour Day. JONATHAN STEELE reports from

# Chicago swells the Wobbly throng

LABOUR DAY, the first Monday in September, is America's annual nightmare of helter-skelter travel, airline over-bookings, carnage on the roads and last minute preparations for the new school year. Its original name is briefly commemorated by a routine message released by George Meany, the man at the apex of the trade union movement.

But spare a thought for a tiny labour organisation with grandiloquent name, group which most people-if they have heard of it at all-probably think is dead but which was holding its annual conference in Chicago this weekend. The Industrial Workers of the World, also known as the Wobblies, is one of the last surviving remnants of the International Syndicalist Movement of two generations ago.

It always had far more influence than its numbers warranted, mainly because of the idealism of its principles, its uncompromising belief rank and file control and its philosophy. libertarian Canada its counterpart called the OBU, One was Big Union and that is essentially what the Wobblies were-an attempt to prevent divisions in the labour movement by creating a single trade union which would ultimately take political power for working people.

its heyday branches in England, Austraha. South Africa, Argentina. Chile and Mexico. It created a stir on the Left when its delegate to the Trade Union International in Moscow in 1921 returned to announce that the international was merely a body to manipulate unions to the dictate of the Kremlin. It created a stir on the Right by vigorously opposing the First World War and holding anticonscription rallies.

# Santa Cruz Bus Workers

Members of the Santa Cruz Public Service Workers Industrial Union 670 (IWW) working for the Santa Cruz Transit District have demanded union recognition for IU 670 and satisfaction on a number of grievances about their working conditions. The members' work involves washing the Transit District busses. They are the only Transit District employees not covered by a union contract.

On July 14th the Union sent the District a letter asking for a card-check election for the bus washers, signed by the washers' Shop Delegate, Harry Kershner, and IU 670 General Delegate Victoria Lucas. A hearing was scheduled before the Transit District Board for August 19th. The Fellow Workers also met with the District's General Manager, Scott Galloway, to demand immediate improvements in working conditions. Grievances include lack of first-aid kits, fire extinguishers, and first-aid training for the workers; the District's failure to provide the right cleaning tools and coveralls; insufficient breaks; and lack of bathrooms (the nearest bathroom is across a highway). Some of the demands were granted (the main remaining grievance is lack of bathrooms), and Fellow Workers held a fried-chicken victory dinner for bus washers and other IU 670 members in Santa Cruz.

DONATIONS NEEDED



# IWW 36th Gen'l Conven

tion

Article at left is from the GUARDIAN, lib-left daily in London England ( 8 Sept 77). Two corrections: we don't sing "Red Flag", we sing "SOLIDARITY FOREVER". and the IWW strikes in Virden & Santa Cruz show we do more than gossip, exchange ideas & sing.

The last 10 years have seen a tiny revival of interest in the Wobblies, whose duespaying membership in 1961 consisted of only 115 people.

The protest movement of the 1960s and new interest in workers' control gave them a new breath of life. This weekend about a hundred young members turned up for the to swop annual convention, gossip with the "old timers," to exchange ideas, and to sing the Red Flag. Its second verse they remember hopefully, was written in 1889 and ends: "In Moscow's vaults its hymns are sung Chicago smalls the surging throng."

The Thirty-sixth General Convention of the IWW, held in Chicago over Labor Day weekend, was marked by unusual unanimity. Only one controversial issue arose a proposed constitutional amendment - during the businesslike two-day session. Sixty-six delegates from the US and Canada attended and took part in deliberations. Members from Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, and Guam were unable to attend.

After the election of Carlos Cortez, editor emeritus of the INDUSTRIAL WORKER, as chairperson, Saturday's business was concerned mostly with the mechanics of the convention, hearing reports, and meeting in committee sessions. General Secretary-Treasurer Kathleen Taylor made her report on the state of the union, and was followed by General Executive Board Chairperson David de-Vries and the other Board members present. Six of the seven GEB members were in attendance at the convention, more than at any convention in recent times. Reports were also heard from the editors of the INDUSTRIAL WORKER and the INDUSTRIAL DEFENCE BULLETIN, and from delegates representing their areas.

Greatest interest centered on reports concerning two ongoing IWW organizing drives - the Metal and Machinery Workers IU 440 organizing drive in Soithern Illinois, as explained by the General Production Workers Organizing Committee of the Chicago Branch and FW Robert Swagerty of the job branch, and the organizing drive among bus washers in Santa Cruz, California, as relayed to the convention by the GST. After the reports the convention broke into committee sessions to prepare recom-

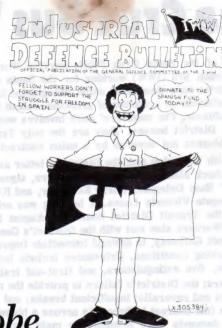
mendations for Sunday's plenary session.

Before a Saturday-evening social Dick deVries gave a slide presentation of his trip to Spain as Chicago Branch

delegate to the CNT.

The delegates to the convention apparently mirrored IWW membership, at least for North America, except for the fact that no delegates were present from the active California area. Only five delegates this year were retired: stalwarts Frank and Jenny Cedervall, Henry Pfaff, Mike Kaciban, and Fred Thompson. The overwhelming majority of the other delegates were young workers ranging in age from the mid-twenties to the early thirties. There were five delegates from Canada - two from Ontario and three from Quebec, although all were Englishspeaking.





# Poles stop probe

WARSAW (Reuter) — The judicial investigation into the death or dissident student Stanislaw Pyjas last May has been dropped due to lack of evidence of foul play, the Krakow prosecutor's office said today. Pyjas' death let to demonstrations by students who alleged he had been murdered.

The prosecutor's office repeated statements that the 23-year-old literature student whose body was found at the bottom of a stairwell in a tenement house, had fallen while drunk and choked on his own blood. Pyjas was a member of the Workers Defence Committee (KOR), which was organized after the riots in Poland last June 25. The KOR has sought freedom for the workers jailed during the riots and the reinstatement of those fired from their jobs.



#### JOE HILL.

#### By LEN WALLACE

I'm sorry Joe. I didn't realize the date. I could have a drink to your memory. November 19, 1915 they murdered you. Yeah! Shot you up with opium, threw you in a wooden chair in front of a firing squad. Four lead bullets pierced your chest. You died fighting Joe - you won - not the bloody bastards who sent you to your death.

You never did die, really. And you never will. The I.W.W. Wobblie's made that clear. "We never forget", they said. Your injury was an injury to all of us.

Is it wrong to drink to your death? If you were with us now you'd probably join in - tell a few jokes. Is it so idiotic?

Joel Hagglund - immigrant Swede, became Joe Hill - the



poet, songwriter and revolutionary. Mother America had no use for you - she wants docile servants, not thinkers. How did you put it? "Workers of the World Awaken, Drop your chains demand your rights. All the wealth you have is taken by exploiting parasites. Shall ye kneel in deep submission from your cradle to your graves, Is the height of your ambition to be

good and willing slaves." Liberty and justice were empty words. "Give me your tired and poor" she proclaimed, but she wouldn't tell you what **she** would do with them. She enticed with nice words, didn't she.

What can I say Joe? - You were a dreamer. The One Big Union grand. The Worker's Commonwealth. Those were fighting words. And you were right - it's



olday

DECEMBER 12, 1975-THE LANCE



great to fight for freedom.

Who knows what tomorrow might bring. Maybe that dream just might come true. As for me, I'll remember you Joe, and your dream.

#### Trade unions charge Government

GUATEMALA CITY - A depressingly familiar pattern of violence has begun to emerge in Guatemala, the most populous and one of the most beautiful countries in Central America. Student leaders have disappeared and their beaten or tortured bodies have been found later on deserted roads, the mutilated bodies of peasants have appeared floating in a river, and trade union leaders have been kidnapped only to turn up days later in

According to a recent report by the London-based human rights group

Amnesty International, 20,000 Guatemalans disappeared or were murdered in the decade ending in 1976. Leaders of popular movements here put the figure at nearer 30,000. And a new report published by the Guatemalan trade union movement claims a new plan of repression is already under way.

The new report - Fascism in Guatemala: A Vast, Repressive Plan against Popular and Union Movements, published by the National Committee of Trade Union Unity - makes harrowing reading. It confirms the judgment of a Guatemalan newspaper editor that "the violence has not abated: it has merely become more selective." According to the report, the selected targets are now predominantly unionists, students, lawyers, peasants and others connected with popular movements.

The committee's conclusion is that "the rhythm of the killings has taken on the character of terror in the last month." The aim of the repression, it says, is to destroy popular organizations, principally through terrorist action such as the elimination of their lead-

The committee decided to act after the assassination in June of Mario Lopez Larrave, a leading lawyer who specialized in labor and student causes. He was machine-gunned to death outside his house in Guatemala City. In the same month, peasants were found beaten to death and with their testicles "swollen like footballs" on a finca (estate) near Retalhuleu in western Guatemala.

The report traces the recent violence (its figures show 826 murders and 192 disappearances in 1976) to the increased number of labor disputes, land claims and attempts to evict peasants from their plots in the past year. The response of the still all-powerful landowners and of the ruling elite, it says, has been to increase police and paramilitary action against "subversive" movements.

The Government has waged a smear

campaign, accusing student and union groups of having been infiltrated by foreign agents. (The Government claimed unions which staged strikes during the recent Belize crisis were part of a Cuban-Panamanian-British plot to thwart Guatemalan claims to the British

Many of the killings and kidnappings are laid at the door of paramilitary groups such as the White Hand, An Eye for an Eye, or the Secret Anti-Communist Army. The last group, formed in June with the aim of wiping out Communist groups in Guatemala, has claimed responsibility for the murder of Robin

The report claims the resurgence of paramilitary groups in Central America is partly due to the rise of the Central American Defence Council, which unites the armies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. There have been persistent claims in Guatemala that Nicaraguan troops are being used alongside Guatemalan army units in the northwest to fight the Guerrilla Army of the People, which grabbed international headlines at the recent International Development Bank meeting in Guatemala by kidnapping the Salvadorean ambassador and making his return dependent on the reading of a revolutionary communique to the meeting.

In view of the current U.S. pre-occupation with human rights in Latin America, the committee's report points out that 14,000 military officials from Central America were trained at U.S. military schools. It claims USAID has financed anti-guerrilla courses which could serve as invaluable terrorist training for members of paramilitary groups.

It is an open secret in Guatemala that the military used paramilitary groups to help wipe out guerrilla and peasant groups in 1968-70. A similar secret is that Guatemalan Vice-President Mario Sandoval, often seen as the President's hatchet man, has his own private army which has been involved in much of the violence.

Coal miners

# Underground protest reported in Romania

BELGRADE (Reuter) Thousands of coal miners refused to do their jobs and stayed underground for two days in the biggest strike in Romania for 30 years, wellinformed sources said vester-

President Nicolai Ceausescu was forced to intervene in the strike, which took place in August but was not reported in Romania's officially-controlled press.

The striking miners were angry about a new pension law, pay policy and poor food supplies, the sources said. The strike ended with the authorities bowing to their demands.

The sources said workers at major mines in the Jiuliu Valley region, which produces 70 per cent of Romania's coal, went down the pits on Aug. 2 and refused to come up.

A top Communist Party official, Ilie Verdet, rushed to the scene along with the labor and mining ministers, the sources added.

The miners were believed to have held Mr. Verdet hostage at a pit in Petroseni until President Ceausescu broke off a vacation on Romania's Black Sea coast and went to the Jiuliu region in the west of the country, the sources said.

President Ceausescu was

met by angry miners, the sources said. Some of them shouted that their life was better under a capitalist sys-

Mr. Ceausescu, who is also Communist Party managed to calm the miners down and delivered a speech, which was later published in the press in a different form without mentioning the strike.

The President praised the miners as the vanguard of the Romanian proletariat, blamed officials for their grievances, and said party policy was not at fault, according to the sources.

The miners were angered by a pension law passed by parliament at the end of July with the aim of narrowing the gap between minimum and maximum wages. This was viewed as unfavorable for miners and other higher-paid workers.

Another grievance was poor supplies of meat and other food and the requirement to work unpaid overtime mainly to help make good the economic damage caused by an earthquake which devastated parts of Romania last April, the sources said.

Two weeks after the strike, the authorities scrapped the earlier pension law and proclaimed a new one more favorable to the miners.

How about high wages for the miners, nigh wages for lesser skilled workers, and no money for the Communist Party? Better yet, no wages and a workers co-operative commonwealth.





EMERGENCY APPEAL - O.K. FOR THEM WHO DIG TALKING HIPPY GHETTO POLITICS, THIS AIN'T INTENDED. Likewise for those who think the working people are crying for Council-Communists to lead a week-end Revolution. IT WON'T INTEREST THOSE EITHER WHO THINK THAT KIDNAPPING SOME BOSS OR STICKING UP A BANK WILL FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE WORLD. Nor they who seek their heroes in Bolshevik and 3rd World dictators.... NO, THIS IS INTENDED FOR THOSE MILITANT WORKERS WHO KNOW DAMN WELL THAT WE CAN'T BEAT THE BOSS WITHOUT A SOLID BASE FROM WHICH TO FIGHT. That we can enforce change only when we've got the economic muscle to push it through. WE WILL CNLY BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY WHEN WE'VE PROVEN THAT WE CAN BOTH ORGANIZE AND HOLD WHAT WE'VE GAINED. Otherwise the Capitalists and their Communist rivals will continue to swamp us. AND ANY WOR-KER WITH ANY SENSE WILL KNOW US FOR MERE KIDS WHISTLING IN THE DARK .... Right, that being the case, here's the current stakes: We have a job branch of equipment workers organized IWW in Virden Illinois. They are solid and we got the legal status. But we need \$5,000 to push it thru and beat the boss. He's got a bullshit case in court to defy a Labor Dept. ruling in our favor. But it's going to take money to beat his legal chicanery; and more for strike relief and mobile picket costs to force him to surrender to our union demands. \$5,000...

We need you to pull \$10 from your wallet right now and send it to:

VIRDEN 1U 440 c/o I.W.W. 752 West Webster Chicago Illinois 60614 USA

... AND: we need you to pledge \$5 or \$10 a month for 6 months ... and send it religiously. Damn it all: \$5 or \$10 now, and \$5 or \$10 spread over 6 months. At minimum that's \$35.

If \$35 stands between you and the IWW, we are in sorry shape.

Let's talk some shop floor working class sense. With a little street-fighting gutsiness added in. If we can't do this we ain't worth a piss in the wind. We got to put up or shut up. Take the money you blow on a bar stool and place it where the punch counts for something. Figure this: send us here in Toronto \$5 a month for Virden 440, \$2.50 for the IWW 670 and bus washing workers in Santa Cruz (see page 3), and \$2.50 for the CNT in Spain: that, fellow worker, is a princely sum of \$10 a month. If you're working and you can't go that, you ain't worth taking seriously, Jack. And that includes me and all the others. Put up or shut up.

188386886 BRUCE BEYER DEFENSE: Bruce Beyer is an American here in Toronto, from Buffalo N.Y. He's also a civilian war resistor who's going home after nearly 8 years - going home to fight a 3 year federal prison sentence for assault. You see, back in 1968 Bruce was an organizer for the Draft Resistance Union in Buffallo. He was drafted; he and another draft resistor took sanctuary in a Unitarian Universalist Church for 12 days. Bruce was on the podium adressing a gathering when 32 federal marshalis, FBI agents & local police stormed the Church. An FBI chief struck Bruce in the head with a restraining chain... Now Bruce is a 6 foot 6, broad-shouldered golden-haired boy and he did what comes natural: he punched out the FBI thug. 8 others were also arrsted for assault; Bruce got 3 years. He said to hell and went to Sweden where he worked 18 months with a World Council of Churches refugee self-help organization; then immigrated to Canada in 1972. He's kept up the fight here in a number of community and working class struggles. Bruce is a former Wobbly: he joined the Skandinavian IWW in Stockholm, transfered to the Canadian IWW, into the General IWW in 1973 and later joined the General Defense Committee... He needs support & defense money. We sent him \$20 to help defense costs... Bruce Beyer fought an unjust, unconstitutional war. He fought a draft system that deferred middle & upper class whites and forced white working class, blacks and other minority youth into an insane war. Good Tuck Bruce. Keep it up. BRUCE BEYER DEFENSE: Bruce Beyer is an American here in Toronto, from Buffalo N.Y. He's

NEXT ISSUE: EYE-WHENESS ACCOUNT KENT STATE DEMOS BY WOBBLY RALPH. Write for advance copy (Donation for their aid).

ALSO: Report from Germany on the fascist prison system.

### The Globe and Mail

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1977

#### Spanish Civil War

it up.

Tribute is paid in The Globe and Mail's Weekend Magazine (The Soldiers in \$8 Suits - Oct. 8) to the 1,239 Canadians who served in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion during the Spanish Civil War. The fine print reveals, however, that not all joined the Mac-Pap, although only the Spanish Red Cross is named as an alternate unit. The article also mentions that the first resistance to the Fascist uprising was by "trade unionists" in Barcelona.

On the first point, a number of Canadian volunteers, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies) from Thunder Bay and Sudbury, fought in the worker militia and Durrutti International Shock Battalion of the anarcho-syndicalist CNT (anarchist labor union), which was the

very union which led the initial resistance in Barcelona. Tribute should be extended to these men, including the Cook brothers, one mand.

When local Wobblies brought this matter to the floor of a Norman Bethune medical fund-raising rally in Sudbury, they were attacked by a Communist Party goon squad.

Gary Jewell Secretary, I.W.W. Toronto

### The Globe and Mail

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1977

#### Anarchist union legalized

MADRID - The Spanish anarchist trade union, the Nakilled by Fascists, to Bill Woods - nearly tional Confederation of Labor, has gained legal status executed by the Stalinist secret police, and after being banned since the end of the 1936-39 civil war. to a number of Canadians in both the Mac- The CNT, founded in 1911 and immensely powerful before cious circumstances. Medical aid was often the civil war, boasts about 40,000 members mainly in the denied the CNT by the Republican com- industrialized areas around Barcelona, Madrid and Valen-

> MALAGA, Spain (Reuter) meeting of about 4,000 ing Spanish hotel workers d in uproar yesterday with no decision on whether to off a two-day strike which

crippled Costa del Sol touresorts.

said smaller left-wing and anarchist unions had opposed the accord